

Claims

That which is claimed is:

1. (Currently amended) An assembly for releasably securing a mirror support arm and a tie-bar together on a vehicle, the assembly comprising:
 - a mirror support arm for supporting a mirror;
 - a tie-bar for connection between said support arm and the vehicle;
 - a connection head having a connection element carried by one of said support arm and tie-bar;
 - a holder carried by the other of said support arm and tie-bar for attaching with said connection element;
 - a positive lock assembly disposed proximate the connection element, the positive lock assembly ~~defining a spring constant urging~~ having a locking element of the positive lock assembly to a resting and a biasing element urging said locking element to a locking position with respect to said holder and yielding to allow the locking element of the positive lock assembly to be moved in response to an external force so that said holder and connection element may be detached; and
 - ~~said holder configured so as to slidably receive~~ receiving said connection element, ~~the said holder defining~~ having a swivel face ~~having with~~ a depression therein, ~~the said locking element of the positive lock assembly positionable in the said depression in said locking position,~~ the spring constant of the positive lock assembly and said biasing element urging the positive lock

assembly to ~~the resting~~ said locking position in the said depression such so that the holder is ~~releasably~~ detachably secured to the said connection head.

2. (Currently amended) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the connection head ~~further defines~~ includes a seat and ~~a mounting element, the seat~~ configured to receive the positive lock assembly, the and a mounting element configured to mount the connection head to ~~the mirror support arm~~ one of said support arm and tie-bar.

3. (Currently amended) The assembly of Claim 2, wherein the positive lock assembly defines a flange configured for seating ~~in~~ with the seat of the said mounting element.

4. (Original) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the positive lock assembly defines a ball-shaped cross-section.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) The assembly of Claim 5, wherein the tie bar and holder are configured for displacement ~~away from the~~ along a longitudinal axis such that the holder is ~~slidable onto or apart from the~~ and connection element are slidable together or apart to respectively couple or uncouple the holder and the ~~rotation~~ connection element.

7. (Currently amended) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the said holder includes a plurality of retaining projections ~~and respective~~ having recesses ~~disposed~~ defined between the retaining projections and the said swivel face for slidably receiving said , ~~the recesses slidable about the~~ connection element, the

said retaining projections extending inwardly ~~at an angle in a direction of the~~
toward said depression of said swivel face.

8. (Original) The assembly of Claim 7, wherein the retaining projections are spaced apart from one another so as to swivably interlock the connection element of the connection head therebetween.

9. (Original) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the holder has a U-shaped cross-section.

10. (Currently amended) The assembly of Claim 1, ~~further~~ including an open end defined in the holder and a guide channel defined in the open end, the open end configured to receive the connection element, the guide channel configured to receive and depress the positive lock assembly to swivably interlock the holder and the connection head.

11. (Original) The assembly of Claim 10, wherein the guide channel has a bowl-shaped cross-section.

12. (Original) The assembly of Claim 10, wherein a width of the guide channel narrows from the open end in a direction of the depression.

13. (Currently amended) The assembly of Claim 1, ~~further~~ wherein said positive lock assembly including includes a spring holder ~~configured for attachment between the~~ carried by said connection head ~~and the mirror support arm, the said spring holder defining having~~ a surface shaped complementary to the one of said tie-bar and mirror support arm ~~and configured to seat the mirror support arm.~~

14. (Currently amended) The assembly of Claim 13, further including a spring element disposed between the said connection head and the said spring holder, the said spring holder defining a spring seat to seat the said spring element.

15. (Currently amended) The assembly of Claim 14, wherein the said spring holder defines a catch for attachment to the said connection head to ~~capture the~~ retain said spring element between the said connection head and the spring holder.

16. (Currently amended) A vehicle mirror assembly for mounting a mirror to a vehicle comprising:

a mirror support arm for supporting a mirror;

a tie-bar carried between said vehicle and said support arm;

a connection head having a connection element carried by one of said tie-bar and support arm;

a holder carried by the other of said tie-bar and support arm for connection to said connection element;

a positive lock assembly ~~disposed proximate the~~ carried by said connection element, the said positive lock assembly defining a spring constant having a biasing element urging a locking element ~~the positive lock assembly~~ toward a resting into a locking position with said holder; and

said holder defining having a swivel face having with a depression formed therein, ~~the positive lock assembly~~ said locking element yieldable to by

~~application of an external force against the swivel face and positionable in the depression, the spring constant of the positive lock assembly to movement and disengagement from said depression; said biasing element urging the positive lock assembly to the resting position~~ said locking element into said locking position in the said depression such so that the said holder is rotatably secured to the said connection head.

17. (Currently amended) The vehicle mirror assembly of Claim 16, wherein ~~the~~ said connection head further defines a seat configured to receive the said positive lock assembly.

18. (Currently amended) The vehicle mirror assembly of Claim 16, wherein ~~the positive lock assembly includes a~~ said locking mechanism element and includes a spring element, ~~the spring element~~ configured to urge the locking mechanism towards ~~the resting~~ said locking position.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) The vehicle mirror assembly of Claim 16, wherein ~~the~~ said tie bar ~~and the holder are~~ is configured for displacement away from ~~the~~ along a longitudinal axis such that ~~the~~ said holder ~~is slidable onto or apart from~~ and the connection element disk are slidable relative to each other to ~~respectively~~ couple or uncouple the holder and the connection element.

21. (Currently amended) The vehicle mirror assembly of Claim 16, wherein the holder includes two retaining projections ~~and respective~~ having recesses ~~disposed between the projections and the swivel face, the connection~~

for slidably receiving said connection element slidable between the said recesses, ~~the two~~ said retaining projections extending inwardly ~~at an angle in a direction of the~~ toward said depression.

22. (Original) The vehicle mirror assembly of Claim 16, further including an open end defined in the holder and a guide channel disposed in the open end, the open end configured to receive the connection element, the guide channel configured to receive and depress the positive lock assembly to swivably interlock the holder and the connection head.

23. (Currently amended) A method for attaching a vehicle mirror assembly to a vehicle ~~body~~ said assembly including a tie-bar for connection to the vehicle, a support arm for connection to said tie-bar, and a mirror carried by said support arm, the method comprising the steps of:

pivotally attaching a first end of a tie bar to a vehicle;

mounting a connection head to one of a second end of the said tie bar ~~or to a~~ and said mirror support arm for supporting a mirror, ~~the~~ wherein said connection head ~~defining~~ includes a connection element;

mounting a holder to the other end of said ~~the second end of the tie bar or the~~ mirror support arm;

~~inserting~~ providing a positive locking element ~~assembly proximate the connection element, the positive lock assembly defining a spring constant for~~ and a biasing element having a spring constant for urging the said positive locking assembly to a resting position and for yielding the positive lock assembly

~~to an external force~~ element into a locking position between said connection element and said holder; and

sliding the holder and the connection element together, ~~the holder defining a swivel face having a depression therein, the positive lock assembly yieldable to the external force and positionable in the depression, the spring constant of the positive lock assembly urging the positive lock assembly to the resting position in the depression such~~ so that said locking element engages with a depression formed in a swivel face of said holder so that the said holder and the said connection head are rotatably secured together.

24. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of displacing ~~the said~~ tie bar along a longitudinal axis of the tie bar for one of sliding the holder and the connection element apart or for sliding the holder and the connection element together.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 23, ~~wherein the holder includes~~ providing a holder having a plurality of retaining projections and ~~respective having~~ recesses disposed between the retaining projections and the swivel face, ~~the recesses slidable about~~ and sliding said recesses over the connection element, ~~the retaining projections extending inwardly at an angle in a direction of the depression.~~

27. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 23, further including the step of depressing the positive lock assembly ~~as the holder and the connection~~

~~head are slid together, the~~ providing a holder defining having an open end ~~therein~~
and a guide channel disposed in the open end, the open end configured to
receive the connection element, the guide channel configured to receive and
depress the positive lock assembly, and sliding the holder and connection head
together.